

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 20-50 are pending in this application. Claims 1-19 are canceled. Claims 20, 23, 27, 35, 47, and 50 are amended by this response. Claims 24, 26, 29, 34 and 40 are independent claims

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for noting that claims 20-23, 32, 33, and 39 would be allowable if re-written to overcome the §112 rejections set forth in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit, however, that all pending claims are allowable.

35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

Claims 20-50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Office Action states that the claims are generally narrative and indefinite, and fail to conform to current U.S. practice. Insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Of the claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 in the Office Action, only claims 20, 24, and 50 have a particular ground of rejection articulated. Applicants therefore assume that the Examiner rejected claims 20-50 in error, meaning only to reject claims 24, 20, and 50 since those are the only claims specifically addressed in the rejection.

With respect to dependent claim 50, Applicants have amended this claim to address the antecedent basis issue noted by the Examiner.

With respect to dependent claim 20, Applicants have amended this claim stylistically and grammatically per the Examiner's suggestions.

With respect to independent claim 24, the Office Action states that the claim limitation of "a second operating mechanical unit for holding or cancelling the

combination of said cabinet and said display unit" is unclear because it is unclear how the mechanical unit "cancels" the combination. Applicants respectfully point to pages 19-22 of the specification for an explanation of what is meant by cancellation of the combination for an embodiment of the invention.

Further with respect to independent claim 24, the Office Action states that perhaps Applicants meant to say "altitude" instead of "attitude" in the phrase "an attitude setting mechanical unit." Applicants respectfully submit that "attitude" clearly refers to "rotational attitude" and support for this can be found in the claims as well as in the specification on pages 15, 16, and 18-20. The phrase "rotational attitude" is one that is well known and commonly used by individuals of ordinary skill in this art and is generally accepted to mean a rotational orientation of a body in space with respect to a reference point. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that "attitude" is the proper term and that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the meaning and usage of the term both from terminology commonly used in the art and from a reading of the claims and specification.

At least for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully submit that the grammatical and antecedent basis issues identified have been corrected, and that the claim terms regarded as ambiguous or unclear are well known in the art and supported by the specification. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

Claims 24-28, 29, 34-37, 40, 42, 44-46, 48, and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication Number 2006/0109388 to Sanders et al. (hereafter "Sanders"). Insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 24

Independent claim 24 pertains to a vehicle-mounted display apparatus including a cabinet having a display unit, and a supporting base to be combined with this cabinet, the base being attached to a surface. The display apparatus comprises an attitude setting mechanical unit for setting a rotational attitude of the cabinet when it is mounted to the base, a first mounting and de-mounting mechanical unit for mounting the cabinet to and de-mounting the cabinet from the base, and a first operating mechanical unit for holding or cancelling the combination of the cabinet and the base.

The display apparatus of claim 24 also comprises "a second mounting and demounting mechanical unit for combining said cabinet and the display unit so that the display unit can be mounted to and demounted from said cabinet; and a second operating mechanical unit for holding or cancelling the combination of said cabinet and said display unit".

With respect to independent claim 24, Sanders teaches a vehicle mounting system for a display device where the display device is a video player unit that can be selectively mounted to a housing panel. The housing panel is a member of a housing that is attached to a surface within a vehicle (Fig. 5, 80). Sanders' housing panel is shown as permanently attached to the vehicle-mounted housing, with the video player unit capable of being attached to or detached from the housing panel (Figs. 7a-c, 38).

In comparing Sanders' invention to independent claim 24, the video player unit of Sanders is analogous to the "cabinet having a display unit" from claim 24 and the housing of Sanders is analogous to the "supporting base to be combined with said cabinet, which is attached to a surface." Unlike Sanders, which only teaches mounting and de-mounting the video player unit to and from the vehicle-mounted housing, claim 24 further specifies "a second mounting and demounting mechanical unit for combining said cabinet and the display unit so that the display unit can be mounted to and demounted from said cabinet."

Sanders discloses the components of a video player unit (Fig. 17), but shows the unit as a single device not meant to function with the display portion (Fig. 17, 40) separated from the cabinet portion (Fig. 17, 72). Applicants respectfully submit that the requirement in claim 24 of not only allowing the cabinet to be mounted and demounted from the vehicle-mounted base, but of also allowing the display unit to “be mounted to and demounted from said cabinet” is not taught or suggested by Sanders.

The element that the Office Action attempts to assert as a second mounting and demounting mechanical unit (Fig 7a, 92) is disclosed in the specification as being a power connector, and specifically as a wiring harness connector. (Para. 0053). This wiring harness is disclosed as part of a set of “additional components” that “allow the DVD player to function as intended.” (Para. 0053). This wiring harness is not a structural component, nor is it disclosed or suggested as performing any mechanical attachment function. This wiring harness connector is shown as connecting wiring in Sanders’ equivalent of the cabinet (Fig 7b, 38) to wiring Sanders’ equivalent of the base (Fig. 7b, 80), and not “for combining said cabinet and the display unit so that the display unit can be mounted to and demounted from said cabinet” as required by independent claim 24.

Claim 26

Independent claim 26 recites the limitation of “a second mounting and demounting mechanical unit for combining said cabinet and either a display unit or a cartridge so that either the display unit or the cartridge can be mounted to and demounted from said cabinet.” Applicants submit that this is nearly identical to the language of independent claim 24, and renders claim 26 patentable over Sanders for the same reasons as set forth above in connection with claim 24.

Claim 29

Independent claim 29 pertains to a selectively mountable display apparatus suitable for mounting on a supporting base attached to a surface, the apparatus comprising a cabinet containing a media presentation device, where the cabinet can be mounted to or separated from the supporting base. The cabinet contains a mounting device disposed for combining the cabinet and the base. The mounting device comprises “an axial member disposed in said cabinet such that said cabinet may be mounted at a plurality of rotational orientations with respect to said supporting base, using said axial member as an axis of rotation.”

The cabinet also contains an operating mechanical unit for “establishing or cancelling the combination of said cabinet and said base wherein said operating mechanical unit connects said cabinet to said base using said axial member by inserting or retracting a protruding portion of said axial member disposed in said cabinet to and from said base such that said protruding portion is inserted into said base along the same line where said axial member is disposed, and such that the connection of said protruding member and said base facilitates rotation of said cabinet with respect to said base about said axial member.”

The Office Action attempts to define an element shown in Figure 7a of Sanders but not labeled nor discussed by Sanders as a “mounting and de-mounting unit with axial member.” (Page 5 of Office Action). This element is not discussed or defined in Sanders. The Examiner is speculating on what this element may possibly be without any basis for identifying the structure or function of this element in the reference applied. Applicants respectfully submit that this is improper for a §102 rejection.

Even assuming, *in arguendo*, that such speculation is not improper, it can be clearly seen from figures 7b and 7c that this unlabeled and un-described element is part of the base and not the cabinet. Sanders’ depiction of a demounting operation of the video player unit from the housing plate (Figs. 7a-c) clearly shows that the portion

identified in the Office Action as a “Mounting Demounting Unit with axial member” moves with respect to the video player unit, but not with respect to the housing plate, as the video player unit is demounted from the housing plate (Figs. 7a-c). This indicates that this speculatively identified element is a portion of the housing plate, and not a portion of the video display unit. Further, Sanders does not depict or discuss an analogous structure on the video player unit.

At best, this speculatively identified element may be the torque hinge (Fig. 17, 74) that connects the housing panel (Fig. 4, 80) to the housing (Fig. 4, 34) to allow the housing panel to rotate with respect to the rest of the housing. (Para. 0051).

Independent claim 29 states that the mounting device comprises “an axial member disposed in said cabinet.” Applicants respectfully submit that Sanders does not teach or suggest “an axial member disposed in said cabinet” as required by independent claim 29.

Furthermore, independent claim 29 states that “connection of said protruding member and said base facilitates rotation of said cabinet with respect to said base.” Applicants respectfully submit that none of Sanders’ embodiments of a removable cabinet rotate with respect to the base. The base of Sanders (34, 54) contains a rotating element (80) to which the cabinet (38) may be mounted, but the cabinet rotates with the base after mounting because it is not possible for the cabinet (38) to rotate without moving the housing panel (80). Applicants therefore submit that Sanders does not teach or suggest that “connection of said protruding member and said base facilitates rotation of said cabinet with respect to said base” as required by independent claim 29.

Claim 34

Independent claim 34 pertains to a method for selectively mounting and demounting a display apparatus to a surface having a mounting base disposed thereon.

The method comprises "coupling a cabinet having a cavity that contains a display media presentation device to said mounting base using retractable axial members disposed on inside surfaces of protruding portions of said cabinet such that said axial members have a cross-sectional shape that corresponds to fitting holes disposed in said base, and wherein said axial members may be selectively retracted into or projected from said protruding portions of said cabinet." The protrusion and retraction of the axial members into and out of the cabinet is accomplished with "an axial member actuation device disposed within said cabinet" and the axial members are "disposed along an axial line and enable said cabinet to be rotatably mounted to said base, with said axial line comprising the axis of rotation."

Applicants submit that in maintaining this rejection, the Examiner has acted on an incorrect claim set or otherwise misconstrued or misread the claim. Applicants note that in the Response to Arguments section, the Examiner states that Applicants have only claimed axial members that are "retractable relative to the base." (Page 9 of Office Action). Applicants respectfully point out there is no such a limitation in independent claim 34. Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner must have misread the Claim Amendments or Arguments of the Office Action Response submitted by Applicants.

Applicants maintain that Sanders does not teach or suggest axial members that "may be selectively retracted into or projected from said protruding portions of said cabinet" as required by independent claim 34. As noted above with respect to independent claim 29, Sanders makes no teaching or suggestion of an axial member disposed in the cabinet. Applicants submit that because Sanders fails to teach any axial member disposed as a mounting unit on the video player unit (38), the presence of "retractable axial members disposed on inside surfaces of protruding portions of said cabinet" as required by independent claim 34 is also not taught by Sanders.

Claim 40

Independent claim 40 pertains to a supporting base suitable for mounting a selectively mountable display apparatus thereon. The base comprises an attachment device for attaching the base to a surface and “fitting holes for attaching said display apparatus to said base, said holes being disposed on opposite, outward-facing ends of said base such that said holes are disposed along a straight line wherein the apertures and floors of a pair of holes disposed on opposite sides of said base all lie along the same straight line.”

As noted with respect to independent claim 29, the elements that the Examiner speculatively identifies as, alternately, either axial members (Page 4 of Office Action) or fitting holes (Page 7 of Office Action), are neither explicitly nor impliedly disclosed as such in Sanders. As noted above, the element speculatively identified on Page 5 of the Office Action as a “Mounting and Demounting unit with axial member” is, at best, the torque hinge (Fig. 17, 74) that connects the housing panel (Fig. 4, 80) to the housing (Fig. 4, 34) to allow the housing panel to rotate with respect to the rest of the housing. (Para. 0051).

Furthermore, in the Response to Arguments portion of the Office Action, the Examiner states that “without further limiting the direction that is intended to be outward, the argument is not persuasive.” Applicants respectfully note that “pending claims must be given their broadest reasonable interpretation consistent with the specification.” (MPEP §2111). Applicants respectfully submit that it is clear from the specification and figures what direction is intended by use of the phrase “outward” in independent claim 40.

Finally, Sanders discloses that the cabinet (38) is mounted to the base (80) by connecting a retaining slot disposed in the cabinet (108) with a retaining finger disposed in the base (110). This connection is maintained by coupling an engagement portion disposed in the cabinet (104) with a detent disposed in the base (106). (Para. 0056).

As disclosed above, Sanders makes no teaching or suggestion of the base containing "fitting holes for attaching said display apparatus to said base, said holes being disposed on opposite, outward-facing ends of said base" as required by independent claim 40.

With respect to all dependent claims in the present application, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims 24, 26, 29, 34, and 40.

At least in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that all the requirements and limitations of independent claims 24, 26, 29, 34, and 40, and all claims depending therefrom, are not taught or suggested by Sanders. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Takeuchi Rejection

Claims 30, 31, and 45 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanders in view of Japanese Patent Number 07-329648 to Takeuchi. This rejection, insofar as it pertains to the presently pending claims, is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit that Takeuchi is not relied upon, nor can it properly be relied upon, to remedy the deficiencies of Sanders with respect to independent claims 29 and 40, from which dependent claims 30, 31, and 45 depend. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that claims 30, 31, and 45 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claims 29 and 40. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Final Rejection

Applicants respectfully submit that a final rejection is not proper at this time. Applicants note that in the Response to Arguments section, the Examiner changes the

definition of the term cabinet to apply to element 38 of Sanders. (Page 9 of Office Action). Applicants therefore submit that the Examiner has, by changing the definitions of fundamental terms relied upon to issue a rejection, issued a new ground of rejection. Since Applicants did not alter the scope or substance of previously pending independent claims, a final rejection based on a new ground of rejection is not proper at this time.

Conclusion

At least in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance.

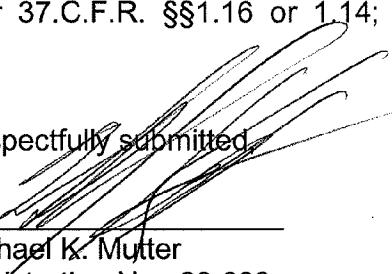
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael K. Mutter (Reg. No. 29,680), at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By


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